

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
Committee on Equal Opportunities  
October 29, 2008**

**Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program  
2007-08 Annual Report**

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program report highlights academic enrichment programs developed for African American middle and junior high school students served by programs at the eight public universities and 13 of the community and technical colleges.

Created by the General Assembly in 1986 to address the underrepresentation of African American students in postsecondary education, the GMSCPP assists students in preparing for high school and postsecondary education, enabling them to become recipients of an array of opportunities as a result of acquiring a postsecondary degree. The program builds relationships among middle, junior high and public postsecondary education institutions, and enables students to identify and address possible academic challenges before transitioning to high school.

The report looks at indicators of participants' success in the program as they prepare to transition from middle to high school. The 2007-08 evaluation revolves around the Council's five questions that organize the Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education (2005-2010); the public agenda questions have been modified to reflect student participation in the program. The five questions:

1. Are more students participating in the GMSCPP—are they preparing for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for GMSCPP participants? Do they understand the costs associated with enrollment and whether it is affordable in the Commonwealth?
3. Do GMSCPP participants complete the program; do they enroll in Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions, graduate, and earn certificates/degrees?
4. Are GMSCPP participants preparing for life and work in Kentucky?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting as a result of the GMSCPP?

Participants of the 2007-08 GMSCPP include 1,209 middle and junior high school students: 959 students (79.3 percent) enrolled in the seven university programs, while

250 students (20.7 percent) enrolled in the KCTCS programs. In comparison, 1,091 students participated in the 2006-07 programs: 862 at the university level and 229 at KCTCS. The number of participants has consistently increased over the past four years. In addition, several new programs have been created through KCTCS. Currently, 144 students are on waiting lists at five institutions (UofL, Elizabethtown CTC, Hopkinsville CC, Madisonville CC, and West KY CTC).

In addition to academic preparation, directors also discussed the rising costs of college tuition and a variety of other resources, including loans that could assist them in paying for their education. Program directors presented information to make participants aware of the value and benefits of a postsecondary education.

Former program participants have enrolled in colleges, technical schools, and universities throughout Kentucky and other states. The first group of program participants—transitioning from middle to high school and high school to college and completing their undergraduate degree—have not yet been identified since the adoption of the GMSCPP statewide application in 2002. For example, participants that enrolled in college in fall 2002 are expected to graduate in 2008 (using the typical six-year schedule).

UK and UofL shared archived data with Council staff that featured GMSCPP alumni. Although consistent data was not available, the data presented provides a starting point for identifying and tracking students as they transition through the postsecondary education system.

The program promotes student access and family and community involvement, and increases awareness of the process for admission and enrollment in Kentucky's postsecondary education system. The eight universities and participating KCTCS institutions are committed to ensuring that African American students are prepared to enroll in and are successful in postsecondary education.

Overall, the GMSCPP has been invaluable in serving African American middle and junior high school students across the state. With increased institutional and state financial resources and other support, more students may become beneficiaries of the statewide program, and Kentucky may see an increase in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans and other ethnic minority groups.